

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FPOR, PGOV, SP

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: SPANISH-VATICAN ACCORD

REF: MADRID 5886

1. THE EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS (BY FORMIN OREJA AND THE PAPAL NUNCIO) ON AUGUST 20 IN SAN SEBASTION, WHICH FOLLOWED ON THE HEELS OF THE AUGUST 17 UNANIMOUS RATIFICATION BY THE CORTES FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, BROUGHT INTO FORCE THE SPANISH-VATICAN ACCORD SIGNED IN ROME ON JULY 28 (REFTEL). THE CLOCK ALSO STARTED RUNNING ON AUGUST 20 WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO-YEAR TIME LIMIT SET FOR THE EXEPECTED SERIES OF ACCORDS WHICH WILL FURTHER MODIFY THE 1953 CONCORDAT.

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2. THUS, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT FIVE "MIXED COMMITTEES" ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE THEIR WORK BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. EACH COMMITTEE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A CERTAIN ASPECT OF THE REVISION, UNDER THE HEADINGS OF A) JUDICIAL MATTERS, B) ECONOMIC, TAXATION AND PATRIMONIAL MATTERS, C) RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, D) EDUCATION AND CULTURAL MATTERS, AND E) RELIGIOUS MATTERS IN THE ARMED FORCES. FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PAPAL NUNCIATURE SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE THAT A BROAD RANGE OF INTERESTED ELEMENTS BE REPRESENTED IN THESE COMMITTEES. IT IS ALSO ENVISAGED THAT A COORDINATING COMMISSION WILL BE CHARGED WITH COMPILING AND EDITING THE VARIOUS SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS.

3. CARDINAL ENRIQUE Y TARANCON, ARCHBISHOP OF MADRID AND PRESIDNET OF THE SPANISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, STATED ON AUGUST 24 THAT THE ACCORD WAS OF "TRANSCENDING IMPORTANCE" FOR CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, OPENING "A NEW PATH OF GREATER HARMONY, GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND EVEN MORE HONESTY" BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND SPANISH SOCIETY. THE DAY BEFORE, CARDINAL TARANCON HAD MET WITH JUSTICE MINISTER LAVILLA (CHARGED WITH INTERNAL CHURCH-STATE MATTERS) TO DISCUSS "VARIOUS CHURCH-STATE THEMES".

4. COMMENT. GOOD INTENTIONS ON BOTH SIDES NOTWITHSTANDING TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS MOVING SMOOTHLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY, THERE WILL BE SOME STICKY PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME. SUCH QUESTIONS AS STATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY, CHURCH EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND CIVIL VERSUS CHURCH MARRIAGE ARE SURE TO BE VIGOROUSLY DEBATED. ALTHOUGH SUCH POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES AS THE CONFESSIONALITY OF THE STATE AND THE MATTER OF DIVORCE ARE CONSIDERED EXTRANEIOUS TO THE COMING COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THEY CAN BE AVOIDED, PARTICULARLY IF THESE ISSUES ARE INCORPORATED IN THE PLATFORMS OF EMBRYO POLITICAL PARTIES.

5. EARLIER CHURCH-STAGE TENSIONS HAVE WITHOUT DOUBT BEEN GREATLY RELIEVED BY THE SPANISH-VATICAN ACCORD. HOWEVER, AS ONE WELL-INFORMED CHURCHMAN RECENTLY POINTED OUT, ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE POST VATICAN II MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH IS TO BE "THE CRITICAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY", AND THAT MEANS THAT "A CERTAIN STATE OF TENSION IS INHERENT" TO ITS DESTINY. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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